

THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE.INFORM.IGNITE.INVOLVE.

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Black history and achievement: a lifetime not a moment



PICTURED ABOVE: BSU All-Inclusive Block Party Event
Photo courtesy of: Mauriama Moore



PICTURED ABOVE: BSU event in 2019 pre-COVID-19
Photo courtesy of: BSU

MIYLAN EUBANKS
STAFF WRITER

The concept for February's Black History Month was initiated by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who is considered a pioneer in the study of African American History. He envisioned this annual time of awareness with hopes of spreading appreciation for Black heritage and achievement.

Black Americans are significant positive contributors in America's history. For Black History Month, let's challenge ourselves to strive for education on Black history, Black culture and Black achievement to extend as a lifelong learning effort and not just a moment in history.

In the wake of #BreonnaTaylor and #George Floyd, it is an understatement to say that we are living in a time where Black and non-Black Americans should be working together, rather than drifting apart. The celebration of Black History Month should be used as a catalyst to learn and become more comfortable with being uncomfortable. What better way to support Black

students and African Americans on a larger scale during this time than to hear straight from fellow students?

During the course of Black History Month, many students on campus have considered, "What can we do?" Mauriama Moore, CUI Black Student Union President, said, "Based on a discussion held in a solidarity book club hosted collaboratively by Professor Mallinson and BSU Vice-President, Miylan Eubanks, I am hearing from white students on campus that their lack of education on Black issues causes them to take a passive approach to having difficult conversations because they do not know where to begin or are afraid of saying the wrong things."

Kai Parham, BSU Graphic Designer added in agreement, "This is often a problem with some of our non-Black allies. They feel that there is not a space for them to appropriately celebrate or be involved without being labeled as culture vultures."

It can be complex—and perplexing—for non-Black students to take that first step

and show their support as an ally. "If we could get more people to join our club and be more open to having difficult discussions, I think that would be a great step for non-Black students to show their support," said Alexandra Flores, BSU Marketer. "Non-Black students can show support by keeping up with Black Student Union. We welcome all students to our events, whether that be game nights, night talks or big events like our recent annual Block Party," said Flores.

So far, Black Student Union has hosted a multitude of events to promote Black celebration and racial solidarity. Recently, Concordia's BSU hosted its annual all-inclusive Block Party. The event showcased a celebration of Black expression through music, art and food. There is also a racial solidarity night talk that occurs every Monday at 8 p.m. in Honors LLC weekly and/or via Zoom. "During the month of February we have started a joined effort book club with Professor Mallinson. We are reading Race Matters by Cornel West and having discussions every

week about racial topics. It is a great way to open the floor to understand Black History and the objectives the community faces. We also hosted a Block Party event that was all inclusive, to celebrate Black students and Black History Month," said Flores.

Lamont Morgan, Concordia's BSU PR Specialist, encourages students to get involved this month and beyond, "[The time is now that we] communicate openly and candidly about what Black people on campus, and as a whole, are experiencing and encourage each other to find solutions for the betterment of future generations."

"By having more of an open dialogue along with necessary action like more diverse representation in student leadership, this will help put into perspective that the Black experience isn't monolithic," added Aaron Mason, BSU Graduate Assistant Advisor.

We must challenge ourselves to find comfort in discomfort. As college students, the future of

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Study abroad options available for 2021-22

KAILYN CASE
STAFF WRITER

Interested in studying abroad? Concordia's programs are up and running for fall 2021. Studying abroad is a great way to get out of your comfort zone and explore the world at a reasonable cost. The Moon International Center has been working diligently to ensure students can travel safely as it is a once in a lifetime experience.

Faith McKinney, Senior Director of the Moon International Center, believes traveling abroad can make you stand out among your peers in the workforce. "When you finish your study abroad program and return home, you will return with a new perspective on culture, language skills, a great education and a willingness to learn. Needless to say, all of these are very attractive to future employers."

Grace Grant works closely with McKinney in the Moon International Center and has high hopes that CUI can help students work through any travel requirements when the time comes. For now, Grand advises students to focus on getting a passport and applying before the soft deadline of April 1.

The programs available are located in: Perth-Australia, Salzburg-Austria, Dublin-Ireland, Edinburgh-Scotland, Concordia Cambridge-England, Paris-France, Regensburg-Germany, Quito-Ecuador, Oxford-England, and Luneburg-Germany. For more information on any of the programs feel free to reach out to Faith McKinney at faith.mckinney@cui.edu.

Junior Greta Moons studied abroad in fall of 2019 and attended Cambridge University in the U.K. Moons said, "My favorite part about studying abroad was being able to be independent and learn about and experience a different culture."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Congratulations to our newly elected ASCUI Executive Board for 2021-2022!

PICTURED BELOW: ASCUI Election Results
Photos courtesy of: Gabi Beckman



President: Ryan Jones



Vice President: Jonah Sielaff



Club
Commissioner: Anna Bidondo



Secretary: Alexis Wood



Treasurer: Maddie Sauerbreit



Communications
Director: Megan Auringer

Looking for a job? Career services hosting three Virtual Career Fairs

STAFF REPORT

Concordia’s Career Services office is co-hosting three career fairs for students this semester. All career fairs will be held virtually through Handshake and are open to students in all majors and grade levels.

The first career fair was on February 24 for Business, Healthcare and STEM. The second fair will take place on March 10 for Ministry and Missions, and the third fair is scheduled for March 24 for Non-Profits and Government.

All students are encouraged to attend these Career Fairs. Scan the QR codes on the flyer to learn more about each session.

Haven’t signed up for Handshake yet? Go to cui.joinhandshake.com. Joining Handshake is a great first step to start your job search.

Need extra help getting career ready this spring? Connect with Concordia’s new Director of Career Development and Vocation, Mariah Lucas '15, at mariah.lucas@cui.edu.

 **CAREER FAIRS**

1

BUSINESS, HEALTHCARE, & STEM
Date: February 24



2

MINISTRY & MISSIONS
Date: March 10



3

NON-PROFIT & GOVERNMENT
Date: March 24



 **Handshake**

Open to students of any major. Must register on Handshake before attending. All fairs held on Handshake

CAREER SERVICES
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Get transfer advice on March 5

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY
CAMPUS EDITOR

Concordia's Transfer Counseling Center is offering 20-minute transfer counseling sessions on March 5, hosted by Transfer Admissions Counselor Tamara Oseguera.

"Sessions can cover the application process, financial aid, our undergraduate academic programs, co-curricular opportunities and our credit evaluation service," said Oseguera.

These sessions are aimed at prospective students looking to transfer into Concordia in the future. It is important for prospective students to be able to ask any and all questions they have about Concordia and its programs. "Be sure to ask questions and get as much information as you can from

all your prospective schools prior to making a commitment," said Oseguera. "Having that information upfront will help you to make the best and most informed decision of where to finish your degree."

Oseguera has been serving as Concordia's Transfer Counselor since August 2019. One of the best parts of her job is seeing transfer students achieve their educational goals and finish their degree.

If you are a current transfer student and need help navigating Concordia, Oseguera suggests, "Get involved! CUI offers so many opportunities and I encourage transfer students to maximize their time here and jump right in!"

In-person campus tours are available for prospective students and members of their household. If

you cannot make it to campus, a new virtual tour is available online.

The self-guided interactive tour can help gain a grasp of Concordia's student life, dining and athletics across campus. To sign up for an in-person tour or visit virtually visit <https://www.cui.edu/admissions/undergraduate/visit>.

To sign up for a session, visit https://cui.secure.force.com/events/targetX_eventsb__events#/esr?eid=a0R3Z00000EMfOJUA1. For more information about transfer counseling, contact Tamara Oseguera at tamara.oseguera@cui.edu. The admissions office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Virtual appointments are available.

CUI history journal accepting submissions for publication

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY
CAMPUS EDITOR

Submissions are open for the second edition of Concordia's undergraduate history journal The Franciscan, which will be published in May 2021. This year, authors are encouraged to tackle questions that engage the true, the good and the beautiful in history. The deadline to submit is Wed., March 17.

This year's theme is wise, honorable and cultivated. The Franciscan staff is looking for "well researched papers that offer a convincing argument about a historical topic," said Makenzie McMullen (History and Political Thought.) Papers that are able to weave history and other disciplines such as literature or science are encouraged.

History is the lens we use to investigate the past and study events, characters and cultures different from

our own. History reaches far beyond a single discipline as it explores the struggles and growth of humanity across the globe and throughout time. By contributing to an undergraduate history journal, we can enter into the conversation that explores politics, economics, culture, society and much more.

Suggested research topics for potential entries include: Historiography of Race in the Americas; Social Justice, Race Relations, Construction of Race; The History of Pandemics and Pandemic Literature; and Revolutions in History: Definitive Political, Intellectual, Social, and Religious Shifts. A Book Review regarding an assessment of the strengths, weaknesses and value of a work of history can also be submitted. A Book Review should be between 800 to 2,000 words.

Categories are simply suggestions and should not limit the author's inspiration.

Papers do not need to fit any category to be submitted. The Franciscan welcomes interdisciplinary research about history, as well as relevant papers that were written for non-history courses. Authors do not have to be history majors to submit. McMullen's favorite part of The Franciscan is being able to read all the papers written by a wide variety of students and watch as the journal comes to fruition.

Submissions should be well-researched and thoroughly proofread. Page count should be between 6-25 pages (double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman) and must include academic citations in a formal style (e.g. MLA, CMS). Please prepare a short abstract and biography (100-150 words each) to include along with your submission. Papers can be submitted online at the franciscan.cui.wordpress.com under the SUBMISSIONS tab.

Forensics finds its 'new normal'

OWEN MILLIGAN
STAFF WRITER

As tournaments in speech and debate moved to a virtual setting, students and coaches outlined challenges and opportunities in preparation, competition and culture. Forensic speech is the study and practice of public speaking and debate modeled after ancient Greek competitions at public forums.

Virtual interactions can severely limit social interaction and team bonding, but Concordia's team actively countered that notion this year.

Director of Forensics Amanda Ozaki-Laughon said, "The team culture continues to be supportive, friendly, welcoming and fun. Our Forensics team is a family." Building the culture, however, can take time.

Travel is a large part of the Forensics program, as schools host tournaments across Southern California and nationwide. Kaitlyn Gleeson, senior and team captain, said, "It is certainly different from last year where we would travel in vans and planes and spend 24 hours a day for five days straight with each other. We would see the best and worst of each other and develop a bond. The main difference is we do not spend all that time together. We are building the bond slower."

Sophomore and first-year Forensics student Rebekah Mehrley said, "I wish I had a stronger sense of community with my team and look forward to (hopefully) actually getting to travel with them soon."

Tournaments in both speech and debate have looked different. "Attempting to navigate the transition from in-person to online competition has taken a lot of control out of the hands of competitors in certain areas but also has given us control over varying things that we probably shouldn't have control over," Damon Mitchell, head speech captain and AFA Student Representative for District One said. "In a traditional speech environment, you get one chance to get it right. In an asynchronous format, we have the ability to re-record, so there is this intense pressure on getting the perfect take."

Students are encouraged to use their platform to voice their opinions on social and political matters to empower themselves and others. Mehrley said, "My favorite part of Forensics is the opportunity to speak about what matters most to me."

Debaters learn to advocate for all sides on a spectrum of political topics. Sean Nowlan, junior and Parliamentary Debate team captain, said, "Debate itself forces you to challenge ideas within rounds,

and you learn to creatively think on the fly. This is not found in a lot of other sports or classroom environments. What you are not taught is brevity, creativity and on-the-fly thinking. All three of these things are stressed inside of debate."

Online tournaments for debaters also provide unique challenges. Director of Debate Benjamin Lange said, "There are so many aspects of interpersonal communication that just don't exist in an online format, and this is seen so glaringly in online debate." Ozaki-Laughon added, "It's difficult to teach public speaking and interpersonal skills when Zoom glitches, internet quality suffers or when body language is impossible to read. The main educational goals of public speaking are difficult to attain in the virtual format."

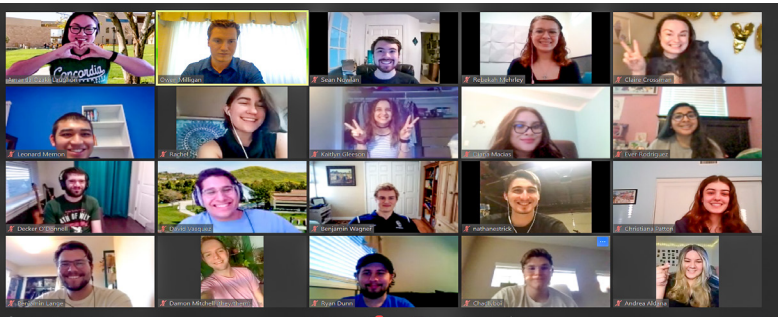
Difficulties this year have not decreased optimism for finals this season. Nowlan said, "I am very hyped. I have seen a lot of my debaters grow a lot over the course of this season. We will have a very strong showing to close the season. We have a real

shot at winning."

Winning is a Forensics tradition at Concordia. According to the program, "Since its founding in 2007, Concordia's forensics team has become the premier full-service forensics team in the western United States. Our full-service forensics squad consistently places in the top-10 rankings nationwide in speech and debate events." Concordia recently received first place in the 2019 Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Spring Championships and second place in the 2019 National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) Sweepstakes.

Gleeson said, "Getting to see teammates, new and old, still working hard and finding joy in this activity is not only a blessing as a teammate and captain but incredibly encouraging as I see myself off in my final year in Concordia Forensics."

Interested in learning more? Visit <https://www.cui.edu/academicprograms/undergraduate/forensics>



PICTURED ABOVE: Forensics meets virtually for a team meeting. Photos courtesy of: CUI Forensics

Study abroad options available for 2021-22

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Moons loved her program because it was composed of students from various Concordia universities all living under the same roof in Cambridge. From studying abroad, she "really learned the importance of taking breaks from work and putting effort into having fun and hanging out with others due to the short amount of time that I was there."

Moons' advice to anyone looking to study abroad would be making sure you have your priorities in line. "Study hard while abroad, but understand that there is also much to be learned from simply exploring your city and experiencing its culture."

Kaylee de la Motte, a junior at Concordia who studied abroad in the Around-The-World(R) semester reminds students to think of the sacrifices when studying abroad. Motte said, "A study abroad semester can be an awesome experience, but don't underestimate the challenges. If you're thinking about it, really consider the sacrifices you might have to make to see if it's worth it. It will really stretch you to your limits and teach you how to be comfortable while being uncomfortable!"

Overall, studying abroad can be a very impactful experience. It provides the opportunity to immerse yourself in a new culture, make new friends, and have a unique learning experience. For any questions or concerns regarding the safety precautions for studying abroad in Fall '21 feel free to reach out to McKinney or Moon International Center Coordinator Alexander Lange at alexander.lange@cui.edu.

Spring strategies for successful singing

DAVID BALLEW
STAFF WRITER

This spring semester, the Concordia Choir continues to sing while utilizing safety strategies for COVID-19 in a way that inspires and elevates the Concordia campus culture.

At the beginning of the spring semester, testing for COVID-19 took place for all of Concordia Choir. While testing was underway, the choir met using Zoom meetings for two weeks. "At the end of two weeks, various labs and activities were granted permission to move into in-person meeting or dual mode," said Dr. Michael Busch, Director of Choral and Vocal Activities. "Student safety is of our utmost concern and we have considered every step very carefully before engaging in them and testing is an important part of that."

In the fall semester, Concordia Choir met in smaller groups. To resume in-person rehearsals as one group this semester, they first met in phases. "A first phase allowed our groups to meet in smaller numbers. A second phase allowed us to meet in larger numbers. Meeting as a full choir took a process of working through those different phases,"

said Busch. "We have been given permission to meet in-person, but right now that permission is only extended to meeting outdoors in masks and distanced by six feet between each singer."

Students have been using the #CampusClear app to lead through self-screening questions to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. "We have stations that our student musicians must go through where their temperatures are checked and logged and they need to answer questions on #CampusClear before being allowed to be a part of the rehearsal," said Busch.

More protocols have been in place since the fall semester with the #CampusClear app. "We have temperature checks as well as #CampusClear checks before the rehearsal," said Daniel Ujifusa,

junior. Student volunteers aid the process of temperature checks for their peers.

The choir is rehearsing on the Alumni Plaza outside of the Borland-Manske Center (BMC) rather than meeting inside the Choral Hall. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday for a 90 minute rehearsal the choir conquers COVID-19 life by using masks and using physical distancing. The masks the choir uses are special singing masks for vocalists that sit comfortably away from the face. Freshman Timothy Maggs said, "We stand six feet apart and sing wearing special masks that are designed to stay off singers' mouths to allow proper singing technique."

Scanning QR codes is another tool that helps with contact tracing in case of exposure to the

disease. "All these precautions help ensure we stay safe and healthy," said Maggs.

For practicing on their own, the BMC practice rooms are an option for students to use. There are safeguards for using practice rooms that include #CampusClear, QR codes, hand sanitizing, masks, cleaning all touch surfaces before and after visiting the room, and air-scrubbing between students to allow for air exchange. Senior Michael Smith said, "It's requested that you're in there on your own with no more than one person in each room."

Future performances for the choir will consist of virtual events. "The Concordia Choir, next Friday, is going to be recording a number of pieces that will be then assembled

into a digital concert and broadcast later," said Busch. Students are encouraged to keep an eye out for the new virtual event coming soon. For information about new and past choir performances, visit <https://www.cui.edu/arts/music/performance-groups/concordia-choir>.

At the Wellness Center, students can drop-in for PCR testing without an appointment on Wednesdays between 11 a.m. to noon. Office hours for the Wellness Center are by appointment Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To learn more about health services at the Wellness Center check out <https://www.cui.edu/studentlife/wellness-center>.



PICTURED ABOVE: Concordia Choir outside the Borland-Manske Center.
Photo courtesy of: David Ballew



PICTURED ABOVE: Student stations for temperature checks outside the Borland-Manske Center.
Photo courtesy of: Timothy Maggs

Concordia Wind Orchestra continues to conquer COVID-19



PICTURED ABOVE: Student students perform in Concordia's Wind Orchestra
Photos courtesy of: Timothy Maggs

EDWARD OLIVER
STAFF WRITER

In the fall semester, some students came back from home to live on campus. Due to COVID-19, many schools and programs have established online teaching and learning to keep up with curriculum. In spring 2021, some COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, allowing students in the Concordia Wind Orchestra to meet up in-person and practice their art. The Concordia Wind

Orchestra is one of the many programs on campus to allow physical presence this semester.

There have been many differences between the fall and spring semester. During the fall, students were more focused on musical studies in lieu of group practice sessions. Classes and recitals were purely online, making it only more apparent as to why music-making is so important.

"We read articles, watched videos, and recorded ourselves playing different excerpts, to do an in-depth study of different concepts we wouldn't have otherwise looked at had we been actively participating in ensembles," said Sophia Flores, a saxophone player in the Concordia Wind Orchestra. "Transitioning into spring 2021, ensembles began to play more consistently, so we transitioned out of the online [only] format and began

to play safely at a distance outside."

Having to rehearse outside comes with its own considerations. According to Flores, musicians have to wear masks when not playing, which is standard regulation for any gathering during COVID-19. The weather can also impact an instrument's pitch.

Students in the Music program have gained greater respect for the value of

live performance. "The experience of making music with others is unlike any other experience in the world," said Flores. "We look forward to the day we will be able to return indoors to play music again."

To learn more about the Concordia Wind Orchestra, visit <https://www.cui.edu/arts/music/performance-groups/wind-orchestra>.



PICTURED ABOVE: Jan Simon during one of his exhibition matches.
Photo Courtesy of: Athletics Department

BILLI DERLITH
ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

This week for our Newport Rib Company Eagle of the Week we are highlighting Jan Simon from the men’s tennis team. Simon is a senior from Koblenz, Germany. He is pursuing his bachelor’s degree in business finance and his dream job would be to go into the real estate investment field.

Simon is one of the few upperclassmen on the men’s tennis squad. Simon reflected, “I really like the position I am in with being one of the oldest and most experienced players.” He continued, “With now being one of the captains of the team I can give my best in leading the team and holding it together in good and challenging times.”

Simon’s pre-game ritual is to listen to music before the meet, “I like away games so we can turn up the music in the van on the way, and get pumped

together with the team.”

The Eagles are ranked No. 14 in the nation according to the ITA NCAA DII preseason rankings. The men’s tennis team won their exhibition contest against Westmont and they won their season opener against Biola. While competing against Biola, Simon won his singles match and his double match with partner Patrick Wong.

Simon remarked, “It has been a great start to the season. Starting a new season is always exciting and you never know where you stand.” He continued, “We got ranked No. 14 in the preseason polls, which puts a little bit of pressure on us. But so far we’ve been doing very good.” Simon concluded, “Our energy the first matches was really good, which helped the whole team perform good. Everyone pushes each other which definitely made me perform stronger too.”

When Simon was asked about what being an Eagle means to him, he responded thoughtfully. “It means a lot to me. It feels like a family away from home. All of these guys are really close to me and for me being from Europe and having all of my family back there it feels good to have a family here that have my back.”

If Simon could give one piece of advice to an incoming freshman he would say “be prepared to have an opponent that tries to get into your head.” There are a lot of mind games going on during the matches. Everyone has to be mentally strong to just blind that out and play your match.

When he is not playing tennis, he enjoys going to the beach, skiing and hanging out with friends. According to Simon, “I also like to go skiing, so if you ask me if [it’s] beach or mountains, I really can’t answer that question.”

Swim and dive team: life in the fast lane

SHANNON RHODES
STAFF WRITER

The women’s swim and dive team traveled south to the University of San Diego for a rare women’s only meet on Sat., Feb.13. The Lady Eagles brought the heat with some groundbreaking times.

Freshman Breckynnn Willis swam the 100, a 200 butterfly and was on the 400 free relay. Willis said, “The team swam really well. Lots of them swam events that they were not used to and they still ended up having some great times.”

Senior Faith Silzel also killed it at the swim meets. She swam in the 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle and the 400 free relay with Willis, Mikayla Jean and Hailey Garcia. Silzel has had an incredible season.

Silzel said she is “excited to see how fast she can go when the season ends at conference.” Captain Alicia Wintermeyer inspired Silzel at the meet with a talk about the real importance of swim and dive. She reminded Silzel that “racing and times are important, but the real blessing of swimming in college is the people and memories you get to make. Focus more on people, than the clock.”

Wintermeyer believes the team did great. She swam the 100 breaststroke, 200 individual medley and the 200 breaststroke.

Wintermeyer said, “My teammates always keep a positive attitude. I am so thankful to have this team by my side. God has really blessed me with the best teammates and Coach. Coach Bert has moved mountains to make this season happen.”

Head coach Bert Bergen is just as proud of his swimmers, as they are proud of themselves and each other. Bergen said their biggest strength is their attitude. “The Eagles competed in every race and battled all day long. They smiled, enjoyed it and didn’t take it all too seriously.”

Bergen noted Silzel’s standout season, “Silzel continues to have a really impressive season. She’s gotten faster each time she’s swum the 500y freestyle (three times) and her versatility in shorter sprints, backstroke and individual medley is very valuable to the team. She was a finalist for the PCSC Conference swimmer-of-the-week last week.”

Bergen was also impressed with senior co-captain Mikayla Jean, junior All-American Katelyn, Thomas, and many of their 14 new freshmen. The season is looking bright for swim and dive.

If students want to stay connected with the swim and dive team, their Twitter and Instagram handle is @cuiswimdive. Stay tuned for their meet at Cal Lutheran University on Sat., Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Sports opening in California in time for baseball season

CARLIE CHAULSETT-UTLEY
CAMPUS EDITOR

As Major League Baseball Spring Training in Arizona and Florida begins, questions about proper COVID-19 safety protocols have been raised. The Los Angeles Angels and World Series champions Los Angeles Dodgers plan to welcome fans to watch Spring Training games.

Earlier this month, both Southern California teams announced a limited-capacity plan to allow fans at live games. For Camelback Ranch and Tempe Diablo Stadium, the venues will sell tickets in two, four or six person socially-distanced pods. Masks will be required to be worn unless eating or drinking.

This year’s Cactus League schedule was shortened from 30 games to 26 in Arizona starting Sunday as the Dodgers face-off against the National League West-rival San Francisco Giants. The Dodgers and Angels will return to California and cap off Spring

Training with a three-game Freeway Series starting March 28. It is unknown at this time if fans will be allowed into the stadium.

On Feb. 19, California state officials announced youth sports can return to play in parts of the state that have a case rate at or below 14 cases per 100,000 residents. The City of Irvine’s Twitter account posted an announcement indicating outdoor competitions in Orange County can resume today.

With the return of youth sports in California and many other teams allowing fans, things are looking up for the five professional baseball teams in California. During the offseason, Dodger President Stan Kasten said his organization is working with the governor’s office and local public health officials to have Dodger Stadium able to offer limited capacity tickets at the start of the season.

Opening Day is a little over five weeks away. As of now, fans are not allowed in California stadiums.

Currently, teams are limited to selling 20% capacity if the county is in the orange tier and 25% capacity if in the yellow tier. Both Orange and Los Angeles County are currently in the purple tier, but trending towards the less restricted red tier. There are no current plans to do temperature checks, require a negative COVID-19 test or proof of vaccination before attending the games.

Kasten remained hopeful in a video sent out to season-ticket holders when he said, “I don’t think it will be a full stadium just yet. But I do believe sometime during this season, the way things are looking, we will have a full stadium again.” He looks forward to welcoming fans back into the stadium to celebrate winning the World Series.

The Dodgers’ home opener is on April 9 vs. the Washington Nationals. For more information visit, <https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/schedule/2021-02>.

Men’s tennis starts the season with a streak



PICTURED ABOVE: Men’s tennis team after beating Biola
Photo courtesy of: cuieagles.com

MAAD ALKADHIM
STAFF WRITER

The men’s tennis team started their current season with a three game winning streak after beating Point Loma on Feb. 17.

The tennis team beat Point Loma 4-1. The team won three of their four singles matches and won two of their three doubles matches. Right now, the men’s tennis team is ranked number 14 in the nation and number one

in their conference. sophomore Sofian Alaoui said, “It was a tight win and it was a hard fight for us to win. And my teammate Ben was clutch in doubles and Jan did great in singles.”

One factor that leads the players to do well as a group and as individuals is the support they receive from each other. Sophomore Adrian D’Aoust said, “There is good support within the

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Concordia professor emphasizes activism everyday



PICTURED ABOVE: Dr. Angela Williamson
Photo courtesy of: Dr. Angela Williamson

CAITLYN ROWLAND
STAFF WRITER

Communication Studies professor Dr. Angela Williamson, cousin to Rosa Parks and a Black documentary filmmaker who produced the award-winning "My Life with Rosie," and Aaron Mason, former President of Concordia's Black Student Union, shared the importance of storytelling to preserve family and cultural histories in the spirit of being an activist year-round.

February's Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements Black people have accomplished and is also a time to reflect on their personal stories and the crucial role in the United States' history that is often left out of the history books. Black History Month is also annually recognized by Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Netherlands.

In 2015, Williamson produced the documentary "My Life with Rosie," which depicts Rosa Parks and her cousin Carolyn Green who wanted Rosa's legacy to live on forever. Williamson shared that storytelling to preserve family and cultural histories is vital for activism. It can serve as a way for people to look at their familial history and/

or other inspirational figures in a credible way, see what they did, and use it to progress. Williamson said, "Storytelling is very important because it ensures that the commitment, knowledge and stories do not change. When I was researching Rosa Parks, I realized how many stories about her were diminished because her story was incorrect."

Williamson did not stop after making the documentary. After a Barbie doll of Rosa Parks was produced by Mattel, she felt it was her duty to share Rosa Parks' story with children in a way they can understand and appreciate. Williamson authored a children's book called "My Life with Rosie: A Bond Between Cousins" which is now an international best-seller. Williamson said, "Fate would not let me go unnoticed. A chapter I was ready to move on from wasn't ready to be closed, even if I thought I was ready to close it. The simple reason is that activism never sleeps." She continued, "Now every child will know Rosa Louise Parks believed everyone, no matter your race or gender, should have equal rights."

Her goal is to inform people on how they can enact change in their daily lives. Williamson said, "For students: I desire to create 'Activism Agents' with my educational series

and children's book."

Williamson explained that Rosa made history, and we must continue our ancestor's legacies to continue progression and make a change. Williamson said, "Now because of Cousin Rosie, you can lead social change for the good and not be afraid to sleep in your own home, lose your job or move thousands of miles from the home you loved; however, this movement she worked her entire life leading needs you and me to continue it." Williamson added, "Cousin Rosie poured her heart into the young people because she knew they'd be the one's making the change, continuing her legacy."

"When activism grows - your community grows." Williamson concluded, "Activism cannot sleep because we need it! It continues through family members, community leaders, educators, but most importantly, it continues with you."

Aaron Mason 20', former president of Black Student Union, also shared the importance of storytelling in families to keep the legacy our ancestors left for us. Mason said, "Storytelling in families is a way to continue the tradition and also make sure that people know and value where they come from."

Mason also shared what Black History Month means to him, "Black History Month to me means it is an opportunity for those who are not Black to learn about the culture both the good and bad but also for other Black people to learn more about themselves and others."

Interested in Concordia's Black Student Union? Go to:

<https://www.cui.edu/studentlife/Student-Leadership/clubs-and-organizations/black-student-union>. All students are welcomed.

Black history and achievement: a lifetime not a moment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tomorrow is knocking on our front door. Concordia molds students who will navigate professions in law enforcement, medicine, financial advisory and education. We have more of a responsibility than ever to send our next generation of teachers out into the world to teach their Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) students

that anything they want to achieve is possible.

How do we get from here to there? Have open dialogue. Read books. Support your local Black Student Union. Remember, the only way forward is together.

If you're looking for ways to better understand the Black Lives Matter Movement and how you can support Black

students on campus go to: <https://theundefeated.com/features/24-books-for-white-people-to-read-beyond-black-history-month/> for Black literature and <https://www.blkbkla.com/black-owned-restaurants> as a directory for Black businesses to support. You can also follow CUI's Black Student Union page @cui_bsu on Instagram.

Irvine providing relief for grocery store workers

CAITIE FULTON
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

In this past month, the Irvine City Council has granted a "temporary boost pay" for select grocery store workers due to the hard working environment that these essential workers have had to endure during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to ABC7 News. These workers will be granted an extra \$4 per hour of work.

Once this ordinance is finalized, the extra pay will take place within the few weeks that follow. Irvine has been the first city in Orange County to enact a hazardous pay for grocery workers during this time. Los Angeles City Council and Coachella City Council have both approved hazardous and "hero pay" to these essential workers.

There are many benefits to Irvine's decision to help these grocery store workers. Senior Kaila Rose said, "I think that hero pay is a great idea for these workers who have been putting their lives at risk due to COVID-19 in order to make sure the community has means for food, toilet paper, paper towels, etc."

The decision seems slightly late from Irvine, however. Rose

explained how this decision should have come earlier. She said, "It makes me feel happy that these employees are being rewarded for their efforts to keep our community at ease during this hard time. In my opinion, they should have gotten this raise last year, all of these people are actual heroes and deserve this hero pay!"

The fact that Irvine is only providing this hazard pay to certain stores is odd. Senior Danielle Schum commented on it. She said, "I think it's interesting that it's only for certain grocery stores/chains because small grocery stores still have been open for the time being from what I understand. However, this decision makes a lot of sense to me because in order for people to get food to cook at home in accordance with stay at home orders they have to get it from the grocery stores."

Irvine continues to meet regularly to discuss COVID-19 concerns across the city. Concordia continues to update details of COVID-19 plans and cautions as new information comes into their dashboard. To view Concordia's dashboard surrounding COVID-19, visit www.cui.edu/covid-19/covid-dashboard.

Path to unity is welcomed, yet tall order, for Biden administration

JENNA HOFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 20, Joseph R. Biden became the 46th President of the United States. It has been a little over a month since then, and the Biden administration has done a lot during that short time.

On his first day as president, Joe Biden signed 15 executive orders which covered issues like immigration, climate change and racial injustice. Others focused strongly on the COVID-19 pandemic and how to put an end to it with initiatives like distributing a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package. In an interview with TIME Magazine White House chief of staff, Ron Klain said, "We are coming to this with a determination to meet these challenges with solutions as big as the problems are."

Other executive orders that President Biden signed that day were reversals of some of former President Donald Trump's initiatives, a big one was rejoining the Paris Climate Accord. Reversing executive orders of presidents prior is not unusual according to Lisa Matthews, a History professor at Concordia. She explained that it is a common action among new presidents because people like to see political leaders "who appear decisive and strong." So it's no surprise that President Biden has rolled back some initiatives from the previous administration since it has become a trend amongst our new leaders.

"I generally believe that

excessive use of executive orders is not a healthy sign for a republic," said Jeff Mallinson, a Philosophy and Theology professor at Concordia. Although he went on to explain that sometimes a situation calls for action and said, "I think it is also reasonable that Biden has issued orders that are time-sensitive and address time-sensitive global issues," referring to sanctions against Myanmar military leaders, our nation's prison system and climate change. Mallinson added saying he hopes Biden turns his attention and power towards healing the deep divide in the nation.

Unification was a throughline in Biden's campaign. He made many references to his goal of unity in his inaugural speech. Biden said, "We can join forces, stop the shouting and lower the temperature," and that, "this is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward."

Although many hope that Biden will be able to accomplish this goal, asking one person to unify a deeply divided country is a tall order. Mallinson said that he hopes that by making progress with COVID-19 and stabilizing the country, Biden will be successful in unification, though Mallinson said, "I must confess that I fear it will be rather difficult."

"I do not think one person...can unite people, parties or the country," Matthews said, adding, "[Though] there is nothing I want more than for all people to love their neighbors as themselves."

“This is the way” to win fans

CASSANDRA CATE
STAFF WRITER

Since its premiere in Nov. 2019, Disney Plus’ “The Mandalorian” has attracted a multitude of viewers, from hard-core fans to casual watchers. Standing apart from recent “Star Wars” films in terms of quality and originality, the show offers something to all members of the audience.

What’s the backstory? A battle-hardened Mandalorian is commissioned to find a fifty-year-old bounty, only to discover that it is a child of a species that ages slowly. After consulting his secret order, the Mandalorian takes pity on The Child and embarks on a quest to return it to its own kind.

Self-described “avid fan” of “Star Wars,” freshman Stephen Christian said, “ I would absolutely recommend the show to any and everyone. This is a side of ‘Star Wars’ no one has ever seen. Fans and previously hesitant viewers will find something new in the way that our bounty hunter protagonist explores the galaxy.”

What is it that makes “The Mandalorian” appeal to such a broad audience, and how is it so different from the films in the franchise? The choice

to make it a television series certainly plays a role. It allows the plot to progress unhindered by the limited time span of a movie, and without imposing long amounts of time to see the whole story at once (that is, excluding fans who binge-watch). Additionally, suspense is more easily created between episodes, edging viewers to continue watching.

Another noteworthy aspect of the show is its classification as a “space western.” Being a traditionally American genre, westerns recall a bygone era, adding another layer of nostalgia to the show. Film professor Adam Lee said, “I have enjoyed Jon Favreau’s engaging with classic film genres’ conventions (Westerns, Samurai, Heist) and shuffling of grand literary meta-narratives (Quest, Journey, Redemption) in almost every episode of “The Mandalorian.”

While the average viewer may not readily identify these cinematic elements, their presence creates a unique ambiance for the show, distinct from the “galactic mythology” created by George Lucas. “I’ve also been delighted by the employment of archetypal characters following the spirit of George Lucas and the invoking

of universal themes like faith, loyalty, friendship and love,” said Lee. It is this combination of the familiar and different that fuels the popularity of “The Mandalorian” among viewers from all generations.

Plus, the characters are well-developed and likable. “Of course, everyone loves the adorable ‘Baby Yoda,’ yet the character of the Mandalorian also presents a mysterious intrigue,” said freshman Katrina Liao. “The audience knows that the Mandalorian is a formidable fighter, yet we do not quite know what face lies under his mask. I was drawn to the show because I cared about these and the other characters.” Each character has struggles, desires, sacrifices and flaws that draw the viewer’s empathy. Many fans have complained that characters in the most recent trilogy were lacking in this area, making “The Mandalorian” a refreshing change.

With the last episode of season two released on Dec. 19, all current episodes of “The Mandalorian” are now available on Disney Plus for streaming. Hopefully, the next season (to be released in December 2021, according to Esquire) will hold to the same standard of quality set by the first two.

The Bachelor Season 25: Most Memorable Entrances

MIYLAN EUBANKS
STAFF WRITER

Matt James, the first Black bachelor of ABC’s “The Bachelor,” is shaking up more than just ratings this season. At 4.5 million viewers upon the first airdate, much of America watched Matt get greeted by an array of 32 beautiful women. However, their arrival was not the only gift that kept on giving. To make a strong first impression on Matt, each woman arrived with a prop or a gimmick that made them unique.

Alana, 26, approached Matt with a bowl of spaghetti and placed a noodle in his mouth in connection to hers. They both

slurped the noodle and locked lips in a very lady and the tramp-esque fashion. Coronavirus-who?

The third bachelorette, Kaili, 26, gave a whole new meaning to the common saying “less is more.” The young hostess arrived in lingerie and a satin robe.

Ultimately, there was only one girl who seemed to steal the hearts of viewers, including Matt. Abigail, 29, arrived with none other than just herself. No gimmicks. No trinkets. She simply put her heart on display and shared with Matt along with all of America that she’s deaf. As

Abigail seamlessly and adorably broke barriers right before all of America’s eyes, she quickly became a fan favorite.

Based on the first few episodes, it seems that the only thing that fans can expect from this season is that they will not know what to expect at all. Concordia students haven’t seen this much excitement on “The Bachelor” franchise since one of our very own, Tayshia Adams, 30-year-old CUI alumna, made her debut as a bachelorette in Season 23 (2019) and Season 6 of Bachelor in Paradise (2019).

This season of “The Bachelor” is anticipated to end in March.

Five interesting rules from MLB's 2021 health and safety protocols

BROOKE JACKSON
SPORTS EDITOR

On Feb. 9, Major League Baseball released its new COVID-19 related health and safety protocols for the upcoming season. These rules were put together with the work of a joint COVID-19 Health and Safety Committee made up of an MLB representative and two physicians to help manage the protocols and testing put in place. “We’ve all gone through a year of this, of living through this,” New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone said in an interview with NBC Sports. “And so, I think we’re much better equipped on how to handle ourselves, how to conduct ourselves, how to make good use of our time.” Some highlights from the recent monitoring and testing plan are include:

1. Facemask Enforcement Officers

Face coverings must be worn at all times except for when the players are on the field playing defense. This includes when they are in the club facilities, dugout or any other shared space. If any member of the team does not follow these protocols their team assigned Facemask Enforcement Officer will issue an

automatic fine that will be collected and donated to charity. Preparing for the games will be different when applying these protocols. Chicago White Sox pitcher Lucas Giolito said on NBC Sports, “I think some of the workouts are going to be in smaller groups, a lot more on point with mask wearing and things like that. I don’t think it will affect our work too much. We’ll certainly be able to get done what we need to get done.”

2. Free Runners

When going into extra innings, the inning will start with a runner on second base. This is put back in place to reduce the lengths of the games and time the pitchers are pitching due to the drastic increase of games from 60 games last season to the usual 162. This runner will be put on second base at the start of the 10th inning and will continue into each inning until a winner prevails.

3. No more seventh inning stretch

In an attempt to reduce the number of potential innings throughout the games, when having double-headers, the games will be reduced to seven innings and then go into the extra-inning rules.

“During a season with the possible delays from COVID, I think the seven-inning and runner on second rules will help any teams make up for lost time,” Arizona Diamondback catcher Stephen Vogt wrote in a text to The Associated Press.

4. Three outs per inning is optional

For Spring Training games Feb. 27 to March 13, innings will be allowed to end early by the manager of the team if 20 pitches have already been thrown. This is to try and reduce injuries and have to rush to warm up a reliever if there are no outs and the pitcher has passed the pitching limit with three runners who have already scored. The managers of both teams have to agree to this rule.

5. Neutral-sites in October?

Games during the postseason may be conducted at neutral sites similar to the 2020 postseason bubbles. Games may be delayed in order to reschedule them, especially for the championship season games.

For more information and further detail on all of the new rules and protocols, visit <https://www.mlb.com/news/health-and-safety-protocols-for-2021-mlb-season>.

Men’s tennis starts the season with a streak

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5
team and the team has great energy and that’s important and we have a great support system.”

Gertjan De Wilder graduate student said, “We were loud and together and that also gave us confidence and we did it as a team.”

The mindset of the team plays an important role to their early winning streak. The current tennis team is composed of mostly sophomores and juniors and they all have the same goal for the season and are motivated to do it. “Everybody is on the same page and are motivated to be number one and win,” Yassine Smiej, junior, and co-captain of the team said.

Others on the team agree with Smiej and have high levels of expectations for the season. “The goal is to push the ranking to top 10 and do good in nationals and maybe win the conference,” De Wilder said. Doust agreed with De Wilder that the goal is for the team to be number one and continue their top form.

An element that helped the team do well in their first two conference wins was having an exhibition game. “It was a good warm up and it brought out our potential,” sophomore Patrick Wong said.

De Wilder was also in agreement with Wong and said,

“We had an exhibition match so we warmed up and we got confidence from that and that helped the freshmen and newcomers.”

The tennis team is made up of players from all over the world. The players bring in their thought process and how they play the game. De Wilder is a newcomer in the team but has already made huge strides to improve the team and strengthen the bonds between the players. “I try to change the mentality and have people focus on others not only themselves. Us hanging out helps bring the team together. It is the things we do outside the court that build the team spirit,” said De Wilder.

The players on the tennis team are all carrying each other this year. Both captains are juniors and are close with their teammates. Both D’Aoust and Wong agreed with each other that this year the leadership isn’t solely on the two captains; the whole team shoulders the responsibility.

On Thur., Feb. 25 the tennis team headed to Oklahoma to play nationals. The whole team is excited and ready to show themselves against the top ranked schools in the nation. With their bonds stronger than ever, the team is determined to leave Oklahoma with a win today.